

THE OLD BABYLON LIBRARY BUILDING



100th Anniversary

The Old Babylon Library Building
100th Anniversary 1911 - 2011

Come celebrate this Historical Centennial
Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2:00 P.M.

117 West Main Street
Babylon Village
631-669-1756

Museum Hours:

Wednesdays & Saturdays 2 - 4 P.M.



Local Hist.
Coll.

Babylon

Library, Babylon
Public

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



Grace Kiernan, director of children's services at the public library, reads to her young audience

Newsday / Thomas R. Koeniger

Facing Growing Pains

Lack of space is a big problem for town's small public library

By Collin Nash
STAFF WRITER

PERCHED ONE DAY last week on a chair meant for a toddler, Grace Kiernan, the director of children's services at the Babylon Public Library, was doing one of her favorite things: reading stories to a rapt audience of 4-year-olds seated before her on a rainbow-colored carpet.

Between stories, Kiernan tested the 20 youngsters on their knowledge of colors.

Picking up an 8½-by-11-inch manila envelope with a green question mark running from top to bottom, she said: "There's something in here that's green and you can go to the store with it. What?" The puzzled looks in 20 pairs of eyes prompted Kiernan to yank a crisp dollar bill from the envelope of other green items.

These days, the library could use a lot more of that kind of green. Paying the cost of enlarging its cramped quarters remains a problem for the South

Carl Avenue information hub cum community meeting place, said library director Andrew Hamm.

Since Babylon residents Loreign Reid, Louise Sammis and a Mrs. Thomas B. Arnold started the Babylon Book Circle and incorporated it April 30, 1895, the library has expanded steadily. But it recently has hit a wall in its physical growth. And although the community has supported the library over the years, it twice has turned down board of trustee propositions in recent votes that would have allowed more space for the burgeoning collection of books, videos, compact discs, computer equipment and special programs that consume the small building.

"These days, it's not just books anymore," trustee Antoinette Mulle said, pointing to the Little Bookworm

reading program and a spectrum of other services within the library's not-an-inch-to-spare confines, which measure about 10,000 square feet.

In the spring of 1988, a proposal to issue a \$2,450,000 bond to expand the one-story library building was turned down by the Babylon School District's 12,000 residents. Then in 1993, the voters also rejected a proposition to acquire property next door for expansion.

The \$280,000 price tag for the acquisition would have meant an average increase of \$76 for each taxpayer in the district, Hamm said. He noted that the library's budget, which has grown at an average annual rate of 5 percent, has never been rejected. "I guess some people felt the time wasn't right for the expansion, which would have created a

bigger tax burden," Hamm said. But while community members have called for expanding the library in the past, there are no long-term expansion plans right now, he said. "We're just trying to make the best we can of managing the space we have."

It's a space supporters gathered to celebrate in April at a centenary commemoration at the library, during which staff members greeted patrons in period costumes and musicians performed. From its itinerant beginnings, the Book Circle, which became the Babylon Library Association in 1895, eventually found a home on Main Street, where it was opened in 1933 for the free use of village residents in exchange for funds raised by them to support it.

The need for finances grew to the point where a 1961 appeal to the Babylon School District resulted in a \$2,500 contribution that was approved annually until 1964, the same year a

See COVER STORY on Page A67

ALSO INSIDE

Schools, Town Hall,
Police, Health,
Neighbors, The Guide,
Anniversaries,
Births, Weddings

Library Faces Growing Pains

COVER STORY from Back Page

proposition for the school district to assume full financial support of the library was given the nod.

The approval resulted in the library's reorganization from an association to a school district public library. After operating for decades out of a building on Main Street, the library moved to a new, larger building on Carll Avenue on Dec. 14, 1968.

While the move represented a new era in the library's history, as an institution it continued on the same social wavelength as the community.

The library, said former employee Marilyn Jawitz in her master's thesis — "The History of the Babylon Library from 1895-1970" — "is, in a large sense, a social history of the community."

The library's mission to be something of a community center hasn't changed much since the Book Circle days, Hamm said. "What has changed is the medium we use."

Kiernan said one reason the library reflects the community is because its staff listens to the patrons. For instance, she said, parents previously were asked to register their children for the Little Bookworm and the Inchworm reading programs, but when lines started wrapping around the block, changes had to be made. Children would reg-

ister and wouldn't show because things cropped up or they decided to do something else that day, she said. "Now we say the door is open."

Denis Malich, a computer consultant visiting to pick up some compact discs, said he uses the library for a host of projects, including leafing through the classifieds as well as research. But besides the services and resources it offers, the library also "holds the community together," he said. "It's sort of analogous to the church," as a place for village members to meet and greet. That's why, he said, "I get a little upset sometimes when people target the library as a way to lower their tax bill."

With the youngsters milling about in the children's section where the library's mascot, Kiwi the iguana, resides, the library's open door seemed like a revolving one.

Preschooler Colleen Pisciotta said she goes there once a week to the Little Bookworm reading sessions. The "Rainbow Fish" is her favorite story, she said, "because it has sparkly stuff on it."

Colleen's siblings, Katie, 3, and Anthony, who's almost 2, also were there with their mother, Kerri. "I want them to know what it's like to borrow and read books," she said. "Also, I want to get them socialized with other kids."

AMAGANSETT • AMITYVILLE • BABYLON • BAITING HOLLOW • BAY SHORE-BRIGHTWATERS • BAYPORT-
 BLUE POINT • BRENTWOOD • BROOKHAVEN • CENTER MORICHES • CENTRAL ISLIP • COLD SPRING HAR-
 BOR • COMMACK • COMSEWOGUE • CONNETQUOT • COPIAGUE • CUTCHOGUE • DEER PARK • EAST HAMP-
 TON • EAST IS-
 LIP • EMMA S. CLARK •
 FISHERS ISLAND •
 FLOYD MEMO-
 RIAL • HAL F
 HOLLOW HILLS •

—SUFFOLK CONNECTION—

HAMPTON BAYS • HAMPTON LIBRARY/BRIDGEHAMPTON • HARBORFIELDS • HUNTINGTON • ISLIP • JOHN
 JERMAIN • LINDENHURST • LONGWOOD • MASTICS-MORICHES-SHIRLEY • MATTITUCK • MIDDLE COUNTRY
 • MONTAUK • NORTH BABYLON • NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT • PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD • PORT JEF-
 FERSON • QUOGUE • RIVERHEAD • ROGERS MEMORIAL • SACHEM • SAYVILLE • SHELTER ISLAND • SHORE-
 HAM-WADING RIVER • SMITHTOWN • SOUTH COUNTRY • SOUTH HUNTINGTON • SOUTHOLD • WEST
 BABYLON • WEST ISLIP • WESTHAMPTON • WYANDANCH • SUFFOLK COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEM

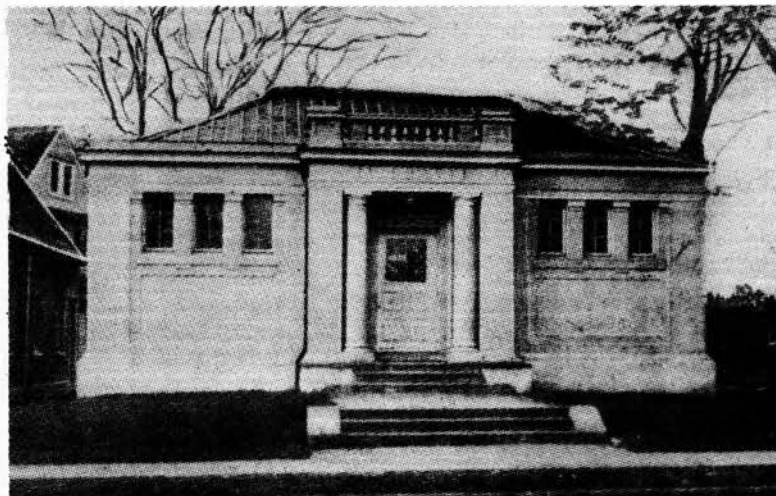
Published for the libraries of Suffolk County by the Suffolk Cooperative Library System

Volume VIII, No. 2

April 1995

HAPPY 100th ANNIVERSARY!

The **Babylon Public Library**, the third oldest in Suffolk County, had its beginnings in the Babylon Book Circle formed by three young women in 1887. Originally there were 25 charter members, each paying \$3 a year in dues. Books were passed from one member to another or left at a convenient place to be picked up by the next reader.



As the Circle increased, the members began to envision the building of a public library for the use of all the interested residents of Babylon.

Then...

The Babylon Book Circle became the Babylon Library Association on April 30, 1895. A librarian was hired in 1905 and was paid \$32.50 for the period of June 1 to November 1. In 1909, the Association received a gift plot of land on Main Street from Elbert C. Livingston, a Babylon resident. One hundred and forty subscribers, practically all the well-known families in Babylon, contributed to the total cost of the library which was \$6,599.12. The new library was formally dedicated in October, 1911. Any person could become a yearly subscriber and take out books on payment of \$2 a year. And, by special arrangement, anyone could take out one or two books a week at a charge of 5 cents a week! People were encouraged to become contributing members for \$5 or sustaining members for \$10. For many years, these dues provided almost the entire financial support of the library.

In exchange for needed funds from the Village, the library was opened up to the free use of Village residents in 1933. In 1964 the Babylon School District assumed full financial support for the library and the association library, after 69 years, came to an end.

(Continued on page 3)

The History of the Babylon Public Library

The Babylon Library is the third oldest library in Suffolk County. The development of the Library began in 1887 when three young women formed the Babylon Book Circle. They were Mrs. Thomas B. Arnold, Miss Loreign Reid and Miss Louis A Sammis.

Originally there were twenty-five charter members enrolled in the Circle, each member agreeing to pay \$3 a year in dues, which was used to purchase books. Books were passed from one member to another or left at a convenient place to be picked up by the next reader.

A father of one of the founders provided a place where the growing collection of books could be housed and where members could come to borrow them. David S. Sammis, owner of the famous Surf Hotel on Fire Island, now the site of the State Park, donated the use of a room in the upper story of a building on Main Street. When the Circle outgrew these quarters, it moved to the Women's Exchange on Deer Park Avenue. After the Exchange was dissolved Leopold Fishel made two rooms in the Fishel Building available to the Circle.

As the Circle increased, the members began to envision the building of a public library for the use of all the interested residents of Babylon. On April 30, 1895, the Babylon Book Circle became the Babylon Library Association incorporated under the laws of New York State. A librarian was hired in 1905 and in 1906 she was paid \$32.50 for the period of June 1 to November 1.

Beginning in 1896 with a concert that raised \$150, the founders and a group of associates worked to raise funds for a library building through a series of annual fairs and social events. By 1909, a library building no longer seemed a dream when the Association received a gift of a plot of land on Main Street, from Elbert C. Livingston, a Babylon Resident.

A building committee was appointed by the Association to decide what kind of a library building should be built. The committee members visited every existing library on Long Island and many in New York State and southern New England traveling in Mr. Jeremiah Robbins' car, the only automobile in the Village at that time.

The final decision was to model it after the Oyster Bay Library. The architectural firm of Pickering and Walker was chosen to design the building and E. M. Howell, a Babylon builder was awarded the contract to erect the library.

A campaign to solicit contributions to the building fund was begun and a total of one hundred and forty subscribers, practically all the well known families in Babylon, contributed to the total cost which was \$6,599.12.

The new Library was formerly dedicated on Monday evening, October 23, 1911. Any person could become a yearly subscriber and take out books on payment of two dollars a year. By special arrangement anyone could take out one or two books a week at a charge of five cents per week. People were encouraged to become contributing members for \$5 or sustaining members for \$10. For many years, these dues provided almost the entire financial support of the Library.

In 1912, the Association's offer to make the Library free, by turning all the library property over to the school district, was rejected by the voters. In the years that followed, the Association developed financial problems and struggled to keep the Library operating. In response to a petition of 565 taxpayers and over 2,000 non-taxpayers, the village of Babylon, in 1933, allocated funds to support the Library, and in exchange, the Library was opened up for the free use of any resident of the Village. After sixty-nine long years, from 1895 to 1964, an Association Library came to an end. The Association, however, continued its annual solicitation of dues, and only those who paid membership dues were eligible to vote at the annual meeting in January and to be elected to serve on the board of trustees.

Over the years, the Village grant was gradually increased as the Association came to need more and more help with its finances. In 1964, a proposition for the school district to assume full financial support for the library was passed.

In 1964, an addition containing a children's room was added to the library building made possible by the generous bequest of Miss Julia Livingston, sister of Mr. Elbert Livingston, who had given the library its building site. However, the addition did not solve the crowded conditions which were becoming more and more evident. Book shelving filled every available inch of wall space, and every shelf was filled with books. In order to carry the weight of additional books, the old floors had to be strengthened with steel basement supports. By 1966, the Babylon Library had so completely outgrown its quarters, that the trustees held a special election at which they won approval from the voters to build a new library.

The voters of the Babylon School District, by a vote of 637 to 307, approved a twenty year bond issue of \$365,000 to erect a new building on a new

site on South Carll Avenue, in October 1966. After fifty-seven years of service to the people of Babylon, the Library on Main Street closed its doors at the end of Novemeber, 1968. The new library was officially dedicated and opened for use on December 14, 1968.

The success of the new Library was evidenced by a sharp increase in circulation. In the fiscal year of 1965-66, the Library circulated 63,380 books. In 1968-69, the number of books circulated had grown to well over 105,000. By 1992, circulation had increased again by another fifty per cent.

As the Library's collections and services have grown, overcrowded conditions that had caused the Library to move from the building on Main Street, have become increasingly more of a problem. In 1988, a proposal to expand the Library by building a large addition, using the Library's parking lot, was defeated by the voters.

In 1995, the Babylon Library will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Marilyn Jawitz in her Master's Report on the History of the Babylon Library from 1895 to 1970, explains the relationship the library has to the community:

The history of the Library is not just a history of one institution. It is, in a larger sense, a social history of the community. The history of the Library is in reality an essential part of the history of Babylon. It was founded, financed, built and supported by Babylon people from its early beginnings to the present day.

The people of Babylon can look back on the history of the Library with great pride as they prepare for its centennial celebration, and for its continued service to the community into the 21st century.

Patricia La Ware

Sources

- Jawitz, Marilyn C. History of the Babylon Public Library from 1895 to 1970. Master's thesis, Long Island University, 1971.
Proctor, Percy M. History of the Babylon Public Library. Typescript.

OKIG. GIVEN TO HIST. SOC.

BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

24 SOUTH CARLL AVENUE
BABYLON, NEW YORK 11702

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Telephone MOhawk 9-1624

For Reference Only

February 4, 1970

Dear Gil,

I have done some hurried research work and some frienzed writing in the last few days to whip into shape this history of the Babylon Library.

There may be mistakes in it and there may be things which should have been included to tell the whole story . I shall be glad to receive any suggestions as to how my account can be made more accurate and more complete, for it will be used in some way and in some form ~~whera~~ on April 30 when ^{we} shall be staging a celebration in observance of the 75th anniversary of the date when the Babylon Library Association was incorporated.

The trustees of the library will welcome help and suggestions from you and the Village Board to develop a significant and appropriate program for the observance of that anniversary.

I hope that you will find this account what you want to provide the information that you needed in your efforts to persuade the Board to acquire the old library as a historical museum. I thoroughly approve of acquiring it for such use and I shall be glad to help in any way I can to further your plan to acquire it and to develop it for such use.

Sincerely yours,

Percy M. Proctor

BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

4 30
5:30

The Babylon Public Library, as it exists today, is the lineal descendant of a circulating library, known as the Babylon Book Circle, which three young ladies —Mrs. Thomas B. Arnold, Miss Loreign Reid, and Miss Louis A. Sammis — organized way back in 1887 for the purpose of making more books available for reading by themselves and their friends.

Twenty-five charter members were enrolled in the Circle, each member agreeing to pay \$3 a year in dues, the money to be used to purchase books which each member would in turn have a chance to read. When a member finished reading a book she passed it on to a ~~near~~ member who was a near neighbor or left it at some convenient place in the Village where it could be picked up by the next member scheduled for it.

For two years the Circle functioned in this way with mounting enthusiasm, and then David S. Sammis, an interested member, provided a place where the growing collection of books could be stored and where members could come to borrow them by donating the use of a room on the upper story of the building on Main Street which was then located where the present ^{Norton} ~~North~~ & Siegel office is now located. Mrs. ~~Arn~~ Arnold's mother gave ~~fur-~~ ~~nishings for the room~~ furnished and decorated the room and it became a pleasant and conveniently located reading room for the Circle members.

Within a few years, however, these quarters were outgrown and the Circle moved in to share quarters with the Women's Exchange. When, shortly after, the Exchange was dissolved, Leopold Fishel made two rooms ~~and~~ in the Fishel Building available to the Circle, rooms that were later to become the law offices of Fishel & Oliver. Heat for these rooms was provided by a stove in the center of one of the rooms which the Circle members had to keep stoked.

Year after year, more and more members joined the Circle, and year after year its collection of books kept steadily increasing. Eventually its members began to envision the possibility of securing a building of their own where a public library could be established for the use of all interested residents of the Village.

Finally, on April 30, 1895, the Babylon Library Association was incorporated by four Babylon residents— Miss Lillian H. Fishel, Miss Antoinette Sammis, Miss Lulu Fishel, and ~~J~~

James W. Eaton. For the next fifteen years, these founders and a group of associates worked to raise funds for a library building. The first money raised was \$150, the proceeds of a concert given in 1896.

By March 1, 1909, the building fund had been built up to \$2,000 through a series of annual fairs and other social events. After careful consideration, it was decided that the most desirable place on which to build a library would be a lot on Main Street owned by Elbert C. Livingston. The lot was located just east of where the Baptist Church then stood at the corner of Main Street and Carll Avenue, ^{a lot} now owned by the Village and used as a parking lot. Mr. Livingston was approached by a committee and asked to set a fair price for the purchase of the lot, but pleasantly surprised the committee by deciding that rather than sell the lot he would present it as his gift to help make the library possible.

Members of the library building committee gave a great deal of time and thought to deciding what type of building should be built. They visited every existing library on Long Island and many in New York State and lower New England. The final decision was to model it after the Oyster Bay Library and A.D. Pickering was hired as the architect to draw up the plans. A campaign was begun to solicit contributions to the building fund, and some 140 of the best-known Babylon families responded by pledging contributions. The firm of E.W. Howell was chosen to erect the building, which was completed and formally dedicated on October 23, 1911. The building and grounds were then valued at \$11,000. The five trustees chosen to administer the new library were ~~Mrs.~~ Miss Fishel, Miss Sammis, Mr. Eaton, Mrs Jeremiah Robbins, and William H. Deale.

Up to the time the library was built all the services of the Book Circle had been administered by volunteers from its membership. Now it was decided that the time had come when it was necessary to employ a librarian, and Miss Dorothy Nicholl was selected for the position. She served until 1918 when she left to be married. Her successor was Gladys W. Conklin whose long and successful service as director of the library came to an end with her retirement after the library was taken over by the school district. In 1934, Miss Beatrice Dayton joined the library staff as ^{and was} ~~as~~ Miss Conklin's assistant, ~~as~~ ^{and was} a member of the staff until she retired on January 1 of this year.

1970 ?

During its early years, the library was not a true "public" library, but open only to members of the Babylon Library Association who paid basic dues of \$2 a year, but were invited to pay \$5 for a contributing membership or \$10 for a sustaining membership. For many years, these dues provided almost the entire financial support that the library could count on.

By 1933, however, the Association was beginning to develop financial problems, and it was determined to petition the Village Board to make an annual appropriation in aid of the library. The petition was signed by 565 taxpayers and over 2,000 non-taxpayers. When the Board responded by granting a yearly subsidy of \$2,000, the library was then opened up for the free use of any resident of the Village and ~~then~~ became a "public library" in the true sense of that title. The Association, however, continued its annual solicitation of dues, and only those who paid membership dues were eligible to vote at the annual meeting in January and to be elected to serve on the nine-member board of trustees.

Over the years, the Village grant was gradually increased as the Association came to need more and more help with its finances. In the years just before the school district voted to take over the library, the Village was making an annual contribution of \$14,000 to the library.

In 1961 when the financial problems of the Association had again become acute, an appeal to the voters of the Babylon School District resulted in the approval at the annual district meeting of a proposition to contribute \$2500 to the support of the library. This contribution was annually approved until 1964 when a proposition for the school district to assume full financial support for the library was passed by a vote of 842 to 375 and approval given for a budget for 1964-65 calling for total expenditures of \$39,930 less anticipated receipts of \$3,100, leaving a net of \$36,830 to be raised by taxation.

In 1964, a bequest in the will of the late Julia Livingston was utilized to have the E.W. Howell Co. build an addition ^{at} ~~on~~ the rear of the original building which provided a fireproof vault and display cabinets for the use of the village historian as well as a large room which could be used as a children's library as well as a ^{place} ~~room~~ where

Historian could give public lectures from time to time.

By 1966, it had become apparent that the library had far outgrown the quarters in the Main Street building. On October 26, 1966, at a special meeting of the voters of the Babylon School District, a proposition was approved by a vote of 637 to 307 authorizing a bond issue of \$365,000 to purchase a site and erect a new library. ~~The total~~ A Federal construction grant of \$127,750, representing 35% of the \$365,000, reduced the bond issue that was eventually required to \$237, 250.

Purchase of a site on South Carll Avenue and the erection there of the new building followed, and on December 14, 1968 the new library was officially ~~opened~~ dedicated and opened for use. It is a one-story fireproof building containing 9100 square feet of useable space, providing shelving room for 39,000 books, and designed to ^{make} adequate provision for library services in the district for at least 20 years in the future, based upon a 20 year projection of the probable population growth.

The library ^{is} ~~is presently operating under a~~ ^(200,000) budget for 1969-70 ~~which calls~~ ^{for} total expenditures of \$93,824, less \$3,300 in anticipated income, leaving a net of \$90,524 to be raised by taxation.

BABYLON VILLAGE LIBRARY

- I. Director-Mrs. Nancy Flanders
- II. Address-24 South Carlil Ave.
- III. Hours
 - A. Winter
 1. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m.
 2. Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - B. Summer
 1. Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 2. Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 3. Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- IV. Registered Users
 - A. 60% of Babylon Village residents-7,462 people
 1. 4,935 adults
 2. 2,527 children
 - B. Average of 72 new patrons joining each month
- V. Circulation-135,000 books yearly
- VI. Resources-Books
 - A. 2,000 reference books
 - B. Adult collection
 1. 7,000 fiction titles
 2. 14,000 non-fiction titles
 - C. Children's collection
 1. 4,5000 fiction titles
 2. 7,000 non-fiction titles
 - D. Total value of books-\$235,000
 - E. 4,000 new tiles added yearly
 - F. Special rental service for bestsellers
 - G. Books available through the Suffolk Cooperative System-40 request made monthly by patrons
- VII. Library's Efforts to Encourage Children to Read
 - A. 3 pre-school story hours
 - B. Children's librarian's monthly visits to kindergarten and first grade classes for story hours
 - C. Guided tour of the library for grade school children
 - D. Summer vacation reading program-600 children enrolled
 - E. Cooperation with St. Joseph's Parochial School and the Seventh Day Adventist Parochial School to encourage students to use the library
- VIII. The Babylon Library As A Community Center
 - A. Monthly art exhibits
 - B. Free movie program
 - C. Distribution of 500 phonograph records for home use
 - D. Distribution of 60 framed art prints for home use
 - E. Arts and crafts classes for children
 - F. Monthly stargazing class
 - G. 150 magazines and 10 newspapers available in the reading room
 - H. Growing collection of large print books for those with empaired eyesight

IX. Expenditures

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Salaries of library staff 6 full time employees part time employees | \$55,355.00 |
| Repair & replacement | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Supplies and materials | \$27,600.00 |
| Insurance | \$ 871.00 |
| Utilities | \$ 7,400.00 |
| Auditor | \$ 200.00 |
| Treasurer | \$ 150.00 |
| Rental of 2 charging machines | \$ 180.00 |
| Maintenance | \$10,350.00 |
| Service contract with Suffolk Cooperative Library | \$ 5,769.00 |
| Special programs & publicity | \$ 2,400.00 |
| Employees' benefits | \$12,614.00 |
| TOTAL | \$124,489.00 |
| <u>Anticipated Income</u> | |
| Books fines | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Non-resident fees | \$3,500.00 |
| Savings from 1972-1973 budget | \$4,000.00 |
| TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME | \$11,000.00 |
| BALANCE TO BE RAISED BY TAXES | \$113,489.00 |
| TAX RATE PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION | 66¢ |

Add Children's Librarian To Babylon Library Budget

Babylon — The addition of a full-time children's librarian to the staff of the Babylon Public Library at a salary of \$7,500 is the major new item of expense in the proposed 1966-67 budget of \$55,037 which the library trustees are presenting for approval at the annual Babylon school district meeting on May 4.

In support of this recommendation, the trustees point out that the constantly mounting use this year of the library's services and resources by both pre-school and grade school youngsters has passed far beyond the ability of a part-time children's librarian to handle adequately. Not until this year has there ever been a month in the library's history when the circulation of children's books exceeded 2,000; but already this year there have been four 2,000 months, while all-time new records were set in February with a circula-

tion of 3,583, and in March, with 4,005.

Juvenile Programs

One important factor in the increased use which youngsters are making of the library has been the many juvenile programs, which have been developed under the leadership of the library director, William Menear, starting off with the summer reading program in which 283 children between the ages of 6 and 13 were enrolled. In November, two Wednesday morning picture book story hours for pre-school children were started with 35 enrolled in each group. A similar hour on Saturday morning for kindergarten and first grade children was also begun

then, together with a Saturday morning story book hour, which Mrs. Arthur Wolfe is conducting. Attendance at each of these Saturday groups is continuing to average well over 20 children.

Every school noon now, from one to three grade classes from St. Joseph's School spend half an hour in the library. Over a hundred pupils who attend that school from districts outside the Babylon school district have paid a special fee of two dollars to qualify to take out books which they need for their school work. A similar arrangement is being worked out with the Seventh Day Adventist School to be effective in September.

Meanwhile the book collection in the children's room has been built up and brought up to date by the expenditure so far this year of some \$7,500 for the purchase of nearly 2,000 new and attractive children's books.



William Murphy Appointed to Library Board

To succeed the late David H. Collins as a trustee of the Babylon Public Library, the board of trustees has unanimously appointed William J. D. Murphy to serve until the annual school district meeting in May. Mr. Murphy will be a candidate then to be elected to serve until July 1, 1970 for the remainder of the term for which Mr. Collins was chosen.

The new trustee is a graduate of Fordham College and Fordham Law School and is associated with the New York law firm of Davies, Hardy, and Schenck. He is a veteran of over three years of service in the United States army during World War II. During the campaign for the bond issue for the new library building, he was the president of the Friends of the Library, and with his wife, Dorothy, played an active part in securing a favorable vote. They have been residents of Babylon since 1955 and live at 40 Reid Avenue. Their three daughters, Donna, Melissa, and Pamela, attend the Babylon Memorial Grade School.

York at
rom Ed
is their

e -

ared
Ro-
day,
nade
live

ORT M...

gain,

APRIL '66

Friends of Library Formed in Babylon

Babylon—Plans for organizing a Friends of the Library unit to be associated with the Babylon Library have been initiated by a group of interested library patrons who met a week ago on Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmont B. Flanders at 21 Prospect Street, Babylon. Formal organization of the unit will be proposed at a meeting to be held at 8:15 Monday evening, April 11, at the Babylon High School. Members of the organizing committee hope to be able to interest at least a hundred regular users of the library to attend that meeting at which anyone interested in joining the unit will be welcome.

A proposed slate of officers will be presented to Monday's meeting by a nominating committee composed of Mrs. H. Dudley Mairs, chairman, George Courly, and Millard Warren.

The immediate objective of the unit will be to spearhead a drive for approval of the library's proposed budget of \$55,037 to be voted on at the annual school district election on Wednesday, May 4. The main items in that budget were explained and discussed with the organizing group by Percy M. Proctor, president of the board of trustees of the library, after which William Menear, the library director, outlined the many ways in which the library's resources and services have been expanded and improved since he became director in July.

Others attending the meeting a week ago Monday in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Flanders and the three members of the nominating committee were Mrs. Andrew G. Combs, Mrs. Charles Bingham, Mrs. Millard Warren, Mrs. Jack Held, Richard B. Leonard, and William Murphy.

1895

BABYLON 75 LIBRARY

1970

HISTORY OF THE BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

Mr. Elbert C. Livingston
 Mrs. Helen Thomas
 Mr. John S. Foster
 Mr. William L. Andrews
 Mr. Charles Tappin
 Mr. Edward C. Arnold
 Mr. Edwin Thorne
 Mr. L. H. Fishel
 Mr. W. F. Norton
 Mr. Jeremiah Robbins
 Mr. J. Vanderveer
 Mr. J. A. Hyman
 Mrs. William Kendall
 Miss Hicks
 Mr. Minor Keith
 Mr. W. P. Reid
 Mrs. W. P. Reid
 Mr. J. L. Ewell
 Mr. C. F. Kingsland
 Miss Sammis
 Mr. Theophilus Lockitt
 Mr. Nelson Carman
 Mr. A. H. Bromell
 Mr. F. S. Bunce
 Mr. W. G. Nicoll
 Mr. F. W. Miller
 Mrs. Henry C. Hepburn
 Dr. W. H. Deale
 Mr. Jacob Bergen
 Mr. C. M. Bergen
 Mr. E. W. Howell
 Mr. R. H. McCurdy
 Mr. W. C. Abbott
 Mr. James W. Eaton
 Mr. Charles Thorne
 Mr. George Cox, Jr.
 Mr. Julius T. Davis
 Mr. Paul E. DeFere
 Mr. L. W. T. Coleman
 Mr. Sherman Tweedy
 Miss Orr
 Mr. O. H. Rogers
 Mr. W. H. Terry
 Mrs. Cormack
 Mr. E. F. Newton
 Mr. H. A. Rubino
 Mr. W. P. Ketcham
 Mrs. George Nicholas
 Mr. E. Blydenburg
 Mr. David Gardner
 Mr. G. T. Thorne
 Mr. Charles Hubbs
 Mr. John R. Higbie
 Mr. T. F. Shortland
 Mr. W. C. Estes
 Mr. Leltoy M. Young
 Mr. Alfred Harris
 Miss Edwards
 Mr. Clarence Carman
 Mrs. E. A. Trenchard
 Mr. S. H. DeForest
 Mr. T. E. Lane
 Mr. T. T. Wall
 Mr. B. B. Wood
 Mr. T. F. Tierney
 Mr. P. E. Robinson
 Mr. Edward Daily
 Mr. M. Bassi



BABYLON LIBRARY, ERECTED 1911.

The Babylon Library Association of Babylon was incorporated under the Laws of the State of New York, April 30, 1895, the names of the incorporators being Lillian H. Fishel, Antoinette H. Sammis, Minnie L. Reid, Washington F. Norton, Eva L. Diossy, Sarah E. Sammis, Lulu Fishel and James W. Eaton. The first meeting was held June 11, 1895, and the following officers were elected: James W. Eaton, president; W. F. Norton, vice president; Lillian H. Fishel, secretary and Antoinette H. Sammis, treasurer. The Association took over the assets of the Babylon Circulating Library, which had been in existence for several years previous. The first money amounting to \$150.00 for the present building was raised by a concert in the year 1896. For fifteen years the association gradually added to the fund until it reached \$2000.00, when public subscriptions were started and on March 1, 1909 Elbert Carl Livingston presented the association with a building site on Main street adjoining the Baptist Church and the list of subscribers as given on this card shows who gave towards this great work. The trustees pledged the subscribers a free library and reading room as soon as its support was assured. This will be done as soon as the necessary arrangements can be settled. The building and grounds are valued at \$11,000.00.

TRUSTEES:
 LILLIAN H. FISHEL ANTIONETTE H. SAMMIS MRS. JEREMIAH ROBBINS
 WILLIAM H. DEALE JAMES W. EATON

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

Mr. F. Dondero
 Mrs. J. M. Ward
 Mr. R. E. Worth
 Mr. Von Hemert
 Dr. W. E. Foster
 Mr. B. P. Field
 Mr. H. C. Blye
 Mr. J. A. Douglas
 Abraham & Strauss
 Mr. Albert Douglas Haft
 Mrs. H. A. V. Post
 Mr. H. P. Bishop
 Mr. J. B. Scudder
 Mr. Gustav Fishel
 Mr. O. L. Gooden
 Mr. A. Matthias
 Mr. H. G. Matthias
 Mr. E. V. Strong
 Mrs. S. Seaman
 Mr. H. W. Terry
 Mr. Freund
 Mr. F. J. Horne
 Mr. R. M. Mansfield
 Mr. A. Weinberg
 Mr. E. J. Moore
 Mr. W. W. Holbrook
 Mr. T. D. Downing
 Mr. A. Bolte
 Mr. J. T. Willoughby
 Mr. A. Johnson
 Dr. May
 Colonial Development
 Mr. Vette
 Mr. C. R. Finlay
 Mrs. McLachlan
 Mr. J. Keenan
 Mr. G. Jarvis
 Mr. E. R. Krueger
 Mr. Molbegatt
 Mr. Riley P. Squires
 Mr. James B. Cooper
 Mrs. Totten
 Mrs. Phinette Cooper
 Mr. H. White
 Mrs. T. B. Kellum
 Mrs. J. J. Robbins
 Mrs. Mildred W. Lane
 Mr. William McClure
 Mr. Clinton M. Weeks
 Mr. John H. Arink
 Mr. James Briscoe, Jr.
 Mr. J. V. Southard
 Mr. W. Roe Jones
 Mr. I. Platt
 Mr. Henry Suydam
 Mr. E. F. Saxton
 Mr. Sidney Alley
 Mr. Burton
 Mr. Columbus
 Mr. K. P. Walker
 Mr. R. B. Dodson
 Epworth League
 Public School
 Basket Ball Team
 Traveler's Club
 S. M. S.
 Baptist Church

A Site Is Secured

By March 1, 1909, \$2,000 had been raised and the decision was made to go ahead with plans for a library building. The most desirable site seemed to be the lot just east of where the Baptist Church then stood at the corner of Main Street and North Carl Avenue, now a Village parking lot. At first, Elbert K. Livingston, who owned the lot, was unwilling to sell the whole lot for the amount of money available for its purchase. Negotiations continued with the members of the library's building committee holding out for the entire lot so that a beautiful silver maple on the Main Street side of the lot would be included. Finally Mr. Livingston smiled, and after disconcerting the committee members by repeating he was not ready to sell the lot, he pleasantly surprised them by announcing he

would present it as his gift toward the new library. The maple tree was the crowning glory of the library grounds for some fifty years before decaying to the point that it had to be cut down. Its immense stump is still visible embedded in the front lawn of the old library building.

A Library Is Built

A great deal of time and thought was devoted to the type of building to be erected. Committee members visited every existing library on Long Island and many in New York State and lower New England. The final decision was to model it after the Oyster Bay Library, and A. D. Pickering was hired as the architect. A campaign was begun to solicit contributions to the building fund and some 140 of the best-known Babylon families responded with con-

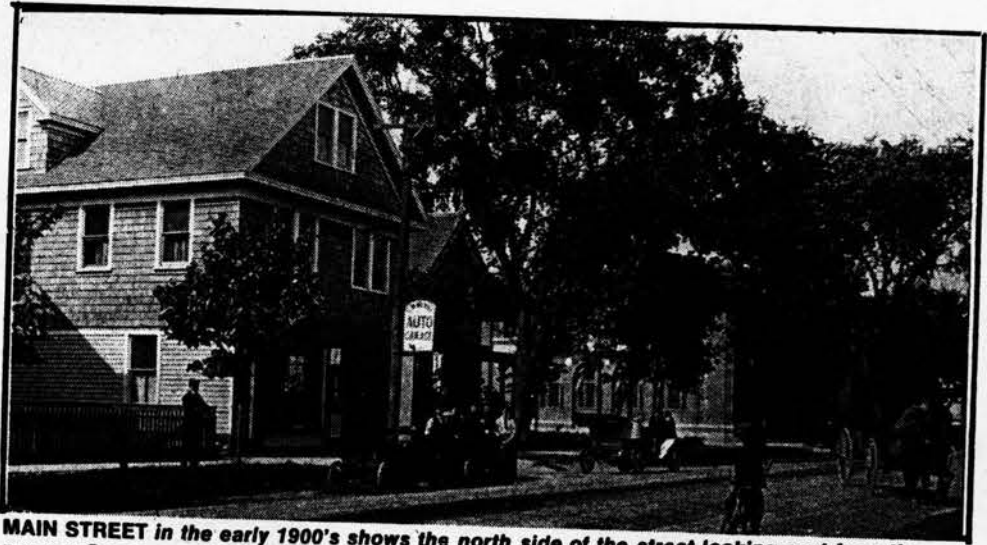
tributions. The Babylon firm of E. W. Howell was chosen to erect the building, which was completed and formally dedicated on October 23, 1911. The building and grounds were then valued at \$11,000. The five trustees chosen to administer the new building were Miss Sammis, Mr. Eaton, Miss Fishel, Mrs. Jeremiah Robbins, and William H. Deale.

Up to the time the library was built, all the services of the Book Circle had been handled by volunteers, but it was now decided that it was necessary to employ a librarian and Miss Dorothy Nicoll was selected. She served until 1918 when she left to be married. Her successor was Miss Gladys W. Conklin whose long and capable service as director came to an end with her retirement after the library was taken over by the school district. In 1943, Miss Beatrice Dayton became Miss

Conklin's assistant to remain as member of the staff until her retirement on January 1, of this year.

Financial Problems

During its early years, the library was not a true "public library, but was open only to those who became members of the Babylon Library Association a paid dues of \$2 a year, but were urged to pay \$5 for a contributory membership or \$10 for a sustaining membership. For many years these dues and the proceeds of the annual fairs were all the financial support the library could count on. By 1933, the Association was beginning to develop financial problems and it was decided to petition the Village Board for annual appropriation to aid the library. The petition was signed by 565 taxpayers and over 200 no-



MAIN STREET in the early 1900's shows the north side of the street looking east from the present Greenman-Pederson building, where for many years on a vacant lot, the original members of the Babylon Library Association held annual fairs to raise funds for a library building. Security National Bank is partially visible on the far right, where also was located the first reading room for members of the Babylon Book Circle above the present Norton & Siegel offices. The gentleman at the fence of the 1826 House, with arms folded, is William MacLachlan, and the car is reported to be a 1910 Buick.

The Start In 1887

The first attempt to form a library in Babylon was made by three young ladies - Mrs. Thomas B. Arnold, Miss Loreign Reid, and Miss Louise A. Sammis - who way back in 1887 organized the Babylon Book Circle for the purpose of making more books available for reading by themselves and their friends. Twenty-five charter members were enrolled in the Circle, each member paying \$3 a year in dues, the money to be used to purchase books which each member would in turn have a chance to read. After a member finished a book, she passed it on to a near neighbor or left it at some convenient place in the Village where it could be picked up by the next member scheduled for it.

For two years the Circle functioned in this way with mounting enthusiasm, and then David D. Sammis, an interested patron of the group, who realized the need for a place where the growing collection of books could be stored and where members could come to borrow them, provided it by donating the use of a room in the upper story of the building on Main Street then located where the present Norton & Siegel office is

now located. Mrs. Arnold's mother furnished and decorated the room and it became a pleasant and conveniently located reading room for the Circle members.

Within a few years, these quarters were outgrown and the Circle moved in to share quarters with the Women's Exchange in the building where Al Brown's store is now located. Shortly after, when the Exchange was dissolved, Leopold H. Fishel made two rooms in the Fishel Building available to the Circle, rooms that were later to become the law offices of Fishel & Oliver. Heat for these rooms was provided by a stove in the center of one room and had to be kept stoked by Circle members.

Growing Pains

Year after year, more members joined the Circle, and year after year its collection of books kept steadily increasing. Eventually its members began to envision the possibility of securing a building of their own where a public library could be established for the use of all interested Village residents.

Finally on April 30, 1895, the Babylon Library Association was incorporated by four Babylon residents - Miss Lillian H. Fishel,

Miss Antoinette Sammis, Miss Lulu Fishel, and James W. Eaton. At the first meeting of the Association after its incorporation, Mr. Eaton was elected president; Washington F. Norton, vice president; and Miss Fishel, secretary. For the next fifteen years, the Association members worked to raise funds for a library building, starting off in 1896 with a concert at which \$150 was realized. Then, under the direction of Mrs. Oliver B. Rogers, a series of outdoor fairs were begun, starting off rather modestly with a one-day fair on the lawn of the Presbyterian Church and then expanding over the years into three-day-long fairs complete with a red and white tent and innumerable booths.

The Annual Fairs

For some years the fairs were staged on the lot at the east corner of South Carl Avenue and Main Street where at that time there were no buildings from Carl Avenue east to the Livingston homestead which then occupied the site where today is located the brick building of the firm of Greenman, Pedersen & Associates. Later, the fairs were

moved to a vacant lot at the corner of Thompson Avenue and Main Street, now the site of the Suffolk Savings and Loan building.

These annual fairs were gala events, their booths staffed by many of the prettiest of Babylon's young ladies attired in gay costumes. All the materials for sale at the booths were donated. Farmers brought in fresh vegetables, and cakes came in from many households. There were homemade aprons and homegrown flowers and all sorts of fancy articles for sale. Attics were ransacked for the white elephant booth which was always a special feature. There was even a sideshow for which a special admission was charged and where the late Edward B. Ketcham entertained with sleight of hand tricks and where a gypsy fortune teller read palms. On a dance platform, a group of Babylon belles were ready to dance with any one willing to pay twenty-five cents for the privilege.

Way up to 1920, years after the library on Main Street had been built, these fairs were continued, the moneys raised by them comprising the chief financial resource of the Library Association during its early years.



JACK RITTER PHOTO

SPACIOUS INTERIOR of the new Babylon Public Library shows four of the Library trustees in the adult section, with the acting director Mrs. Nancy Flanders. (L. to r.) are William J. D. Murphy, Rhodes Copithorn, Mrs. Flanders, Percy M. Proctor and Charles Hayward. Trustee Irving Like is not shown. A children's section and all-purpose meeting room is located on the north side of the building to accommodate the 2497 Juvenile library card-holders. Each year the Library issues more than 1000 cards to new residents of the area.

taxpayers. When the Board responded by granting a yearly subsidy of \$2,000, the library was opened up for free use by any Village resident and became a "public" library in the true sense of that title. The Association continued its annual solicitations of membership dues, however, and only those who paid them were eligible to vote at the annual meeting and could be elected to the nine-member board of trustees.

Over the years, the Village grant was gradually increased as the Association came to need more financial help. In the years just before the school district voted to take over the library, the Village was making an annual contribution of \$14,000.

By 1961, the financial problems of the Association had again become acute. An appeal to the voters of the Babylon School district resulted in the approval of a contribution of \$2,500 for the library, a contribution annually approved until 1964 when a proposition for the school district to assume full financial support for the library was passed by a vote of 842 to 375. Also approved was the 1964-65 budget calling for expenditures of \$39,930, less anticipated receipts of \$3,100 leaving a net of \$36,830 to be raised by taxation.

New Building Needed

By 1966, it had become clearly apparent that the library had far outgrown its quarters in the Main Street building. On October 26, 1966, at a special meeting of the voters of the Babylon School district, a proposition was approved by a vote of 637 to 307 authorizing a bond issue of \$365,000 to purchase a site and erect a new building. A federal grant of \$127,750, representing 35 percent of the \$365,000, reduced to \$237,500, the bond issue that was eventually required.

Purchase of a site on South Carll Avenue and the erection of the new building followed, and on

December 14, 1968, the new library was officially dedicated and opened for use. It is a one-story fireproof building containing 9100 square feet of useable space, providing shelving room for 39,000 books, and was designed to give adequate room and facilities for library service in the district for at least twenty years in the future, based upon a 20 year projection of the probable population growth,

Budget And Trustees

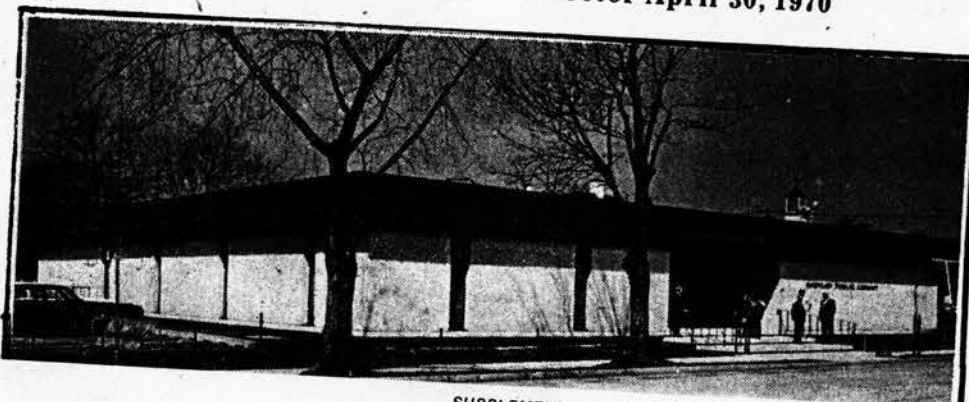
The library budget for 1969 - 70 calls for total expenditures of \$93,824, less \$3,300 in anticipated income, leaving a net of \$90,524 to be raised by taxation. At the annual district meeting in June, a proposed budget for 1970 - 71 will be presented calling for total expenditures of \$102,232, less \$9,475 in anticipated income, leaving a net of \$92,757 to be raised by taxation. It is estimated that the tax rate to support the library next year will show an increase of only one cent.

The library is administered by a board of five trustees elected by the district voters for a term of five years. One trustee comes up for election each year. The present board is composed of Percy M. Proctor, president; Charles F. Hayward, vice president; Rhodes Copithorn, secretary; Irving Like and William J.D. Murphy.

Library Staff

Mrs. Nancy Flanders is presently the acting director, assisted by two full-time clerks, Mrs. Dudley Mairs and Mrs. Andrew Combs, and the children's librarian, Mrs. Mildred Jawitz. Part-time staff members include Mrs. Rhodes Copithorn, Mrs. Murray Haines, Mrs. Joan Held, Mrs. Louise Kennedy, Mrs. John Maher, and Mrs. Myrtle Matthews.

Compiled and written by Percy M. Proctor April 30, 1970



JACK RITTER PHOTO

SUPPLEMENT DESIGNED BY POOR RICHARD ASSOCIATES

National Library Week

National Library Week is to be observed from April 17 through 23. It symbolizes a service and a need that are of the utmost importance in this complex modern world.

A library is many things. It is, first of all, a repository of the thoughts, the wisdoms, the failures and successes, and events great and small which marred or brightened the centuries which have passed. It holds, within its confines, the history of man and nature.

A library exists to provide knowledge and understanding. It has no limits — everything ever known under the sun is within its province. A library is timeless, in the sense that it embraces all of time.

A library offers the reader amusement, relaxation, the opportunity to quietly contemplate himself and the world around him. It provides, from its many voices, comfort or challenge, relief from care or stirrings of ambition — whatever may be one's needs or desires.

It is impossible to conceive of a world without libraries. Never in the endless reach of history has knowledge been so important. That is true of the knowledge that lies behind the miracles of science and invention which are transforming life more swiftly than we realize. And it is true, above all, of the knowledge that comes out of the past and that deals with the principles and attitudes and values that transcend the material, and give true meaning to the existence and perpetuation of mankind.

APRIL
'66

Picture Book Time At Babylon Library

Babylon — Picture book story hours for the youngest children of the Babylon Grade School and St. Joseph's Parochial School have been started by William Menear, director of the Babylon Library, in an effort to bring to these children an experience which has not previously been offered to them in these schools.

Mr. Menear, who has had special training in conducting story hours for children, will cover all of the kindergarten and first grade classes in the Babylon Grade School, meeting three of these classes for 20 minute periods each Tuesday morning. On this schedule, it will take him a month to make a complete round of

all the kindergarten and first grade classes.

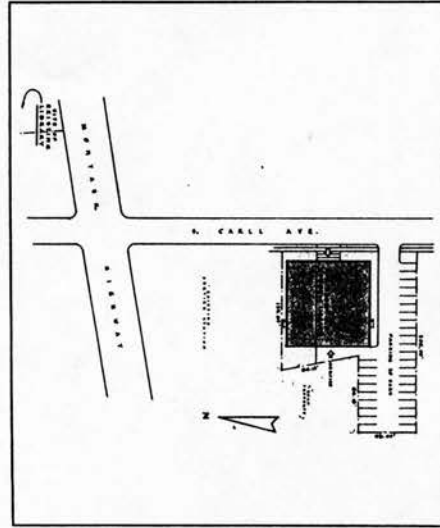
At St. Joseph's, he will meet on Thursdays with first and second grade classes, on the same schedule of three class groups each morning.

These story hours supplement those which have been held regularly all through the fall and winter in the library on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The two pre-school groups which meet on Wednesday morning have had a total average attendance of 54 children. Attendance at the two Saturday morning classes for older children has averaged 21 for each class, making a grand total of some 94 children who regularly attend these special story hours.

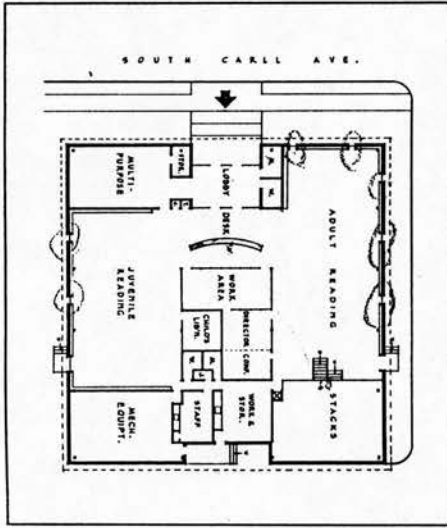
INFORMATION MEETING

A public information meeting at which plans for the library will be discussed and questions answered about the project will be held in the Babylon High School auditorium at 8 P.M. Tuesday evening, October 18.

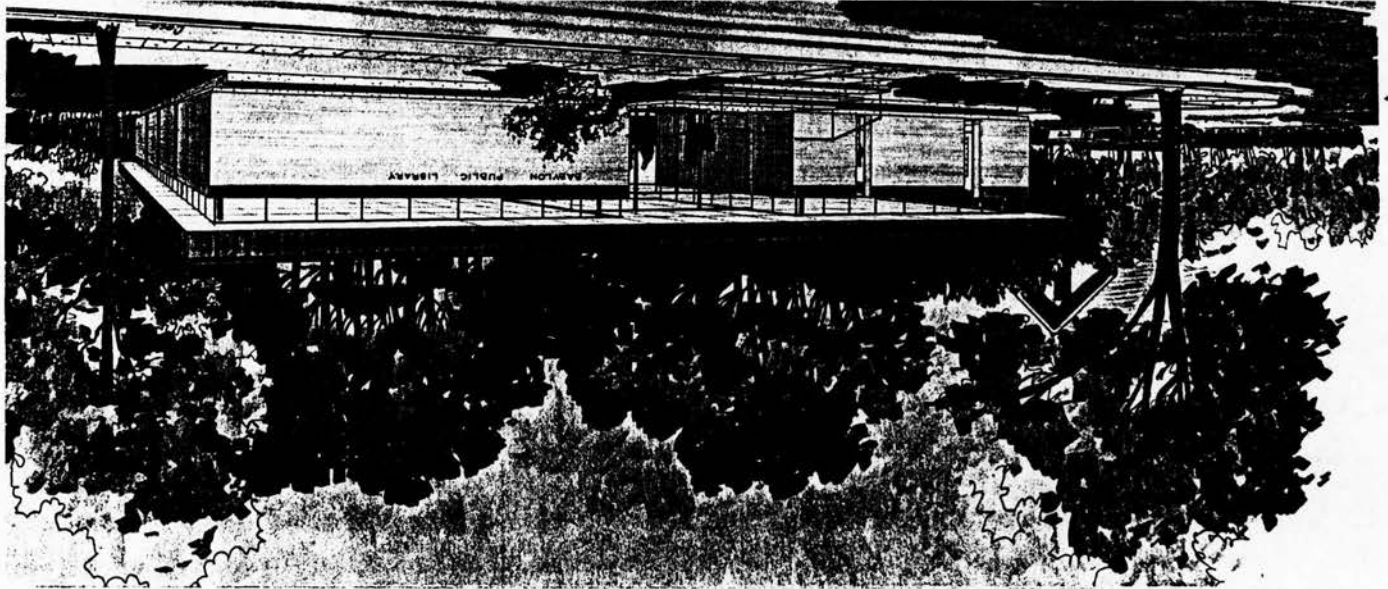
LOCATION AND PLOT PLAN



FLOOR PLAN



A NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR BABYLON



THE BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 118
Babylon, N. Y.

"I think the proposal for the new library building is a splendid plan for improving the Babylon Library and guaranteeing its future. A good library is an essential and important part of a community. I am delighted to give the proposal my complete and hearty endorsement."

Syd Askoff, Mayor

THE LIBRARY BOARD: Percy M. Proctor, *President* David H. Collins Rhodes Copithorn
Charles F. Hayward Irving Like William Menear, *Library Director*

In these pages, the trustees of the Babylon School District Public Library explain why the present quarters of the library are inadequate and why they believe at the best and most economical plan to provide quarters for at least the next twenty years is to build a new library on a new site.

THE PRESENT LIBRARY IS INADEQUATE

Any one who visits the library will readily note the crowded conditions. Book shelving fills every available inch of wall space, and every shelf is filled with books. Temporary stacks clutter the main floor, and new stacks are constantly being added to keep pace with the growing book collection.

The library's reference resources have been so tremendously improved that an ever increasing number of adults and high school pupils seek to use them. As a result, however, of the crowded conditions, there remains room for only twelve reader seats at three small tables (the accepted minimum standard in the adult room of a library serving a community of our size is 43 seats).

Due to the rapid growth of children's programs and services, children pass in an almost continual procession through the middle of the adult room on their way to and from the children's room in the rear. Naturally, those in the adult room do not enjoy the peace and quiet which would allow them to concentrate on their work.

Whenever picture book and story hours for younger children are being held, the children's room must be closed, thus denying other children an opportunity to enter and take out books.

The dramatic increase in the use of the library over the past four years is illustrated by the circulation figures for these years:

| Year | Book Circulation |
|---------|------------------|
| 1963-64 | 36,557 |
| 1964-65 | 42,093 |
| 1965-66 | 62,380 |
| 1966-67 | 87,000* |

* Estimate based on the 13,279 circulation for July and August, a 40% increase over the figures for the same two months of last year.

WHAT IS THE BEST AND MOST ECONOMICAL WAY TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE LIBRARY?

For months, the Library Trustees and the Members of the Babylon Board of Education have been exploring possible answers to this question.

We first considered the purchase for \$56,000 of the adjoining parking lot and erecting a library addition on it. After a careful study, our architects advised that so much of the old building would have to be renovated and so many complications would be involved in tying together the old building and an addition, that it would be more practical to tear down the old building and replace it with a new building.

However, for a new building, the present library site and the adjoining parking lot offered 13,000 sq. ft. of useable space, barely enough to squeeze in a building with 9100 sq. ft. of interior space, the size necessary to meet accepted library standards for our community. All along, our sights had been set on qualifying for a Federal Construction grant of at least 25% and possibly 35% of the total cost. A 9100 sq. ft. building would meet the first standard upon which the award of such a grant would be based. But we would be seriously deficient in meeting the two other standards: namely, available room on the site for future expansion (there would be none); and adequate parking facilities either on the site or close by (to build on the adjacent parking lot would seriously reduce parking available for library patrons).

Finally, after considering a number of sites, the answer was found in the decision to recommend the erection of a new building on a South Carll Avenue site (see plot plan) which could be purchased for \$60,000. It comprises 23,000 sq. ft., ample for the 9100 sq. ft. building, for thirty on-site parking places, and for future expansion if necessary.

THE PROPOSITION

A 20 year bond issue of \$365,000 to cover all costs: site, construction, furniture, equipment, architect's fee, and legal fees. Already, tentative approval has been given for a Federal Grant of \$127,750, 35% of the \$365,000. Final approval cannot be given until the voters pass the bond issue, but we have been encouraged to believe that we can count upon receiving approval, thus reducing the local cost to \$237,250.

THE BUILDING

The one story fireproof building will be architecturally pleasing, but without frills. Its interior space of 9100 sq. ft. will provide shelving for 39,000 volumes, will have 43 seats in the adult area and 22 seats in the children's room. A small separate room will be available for picture book or story hours, films, and other special library programs and activities.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST YOU?

The tax increase to cover payment of \$365,000 through a twenty year bond issue is estimated at 23 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, or approximately \$6.90 for a house assessed for \$3,000 (actual cash value \$15,000) and \$11.50 for a house assessed for \$5,000 (actual value \$25,000).

The Federal Grant of \$127,750 would reduce the tax rate to about 15 cents per \$100, or \$4.50 for a house assessed for \$3,000 and \$7.50 for a house assessed for \$5,000.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE VOTE

Wednesday, October 26, in the Babylon High School corrective room, entrance off Grove Place, from noon to 9 P.M. To be eligible to vote, you must be registered. If you registered at the Annual Meeting in May, you do not have to reregister. If you have any question whether you are registered, call the School Clerk's office at MO 1-5810.

If you are not registered, you can register in the corrective room, Tuesday, October 18 from noon to 9 P.M.

husband was stationed in Japan in 1950 and has carried the organization to her area, current members are, Jack Edward Harwood Jr., Doug and Robert Neerath, John Yance, Patrick, Kevin and Paul Bishop, Bruce Thompson, Ricky Daido and David Walker, from 12 to 18 years of age. The boys, under the guidance of Mrs. Harwood and her assistant, John Hendricksen are collecting furniture and clothing for the needy, also magazines for hospitalized veterans. They made Easter boxes for Northport Hospital, collected donations amounting to \$50 for a child with leukemia, among other projects. Anyone wishing to have furniture and clothing picked up for contribution may call Mrs. Harwood MO 9-3192. The group meets each Wednesday at her home, membership is open for interested boys.

At the wedding reception for Mr. and Gladys Moglia the young couple left for their wedding trip and and friends of the Moglia's at their home on Chelsea had a buffet and informal reception for North Babylon residents. Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Mrs. George Moglia and Mrs. George and Kevin; and Muriel Moglia. Babylon came the John and children, Sandra and Mrs. J. B. Mr. and Mrs. Islip. Malands included, Camisa and Doris; Anna and Lopes and Wilbles

Joseph of Amityville for eight years, married and the father of four children. They attend kindergarten, third, fourth and sixth grades in the Amityville Schools. He obtained his BS degree in chemistry from Poly-

technic University. Peter Pappas, the thru candidate endorsed by the Committee has issued no statement regarding this particular issue.

Wm. Murphy Will Head Babylon Library Friends

Babylon — Formal organization of a Friends of the Babylon Library unit was completed on Monday evening, April 11, when a group of interested library patrons met in the Babylon High School and elected the following officers: president, William Murphy; vice president, John H. Tompkins; treasurer, Bryan Lawrence; and secretary, Mrs. Norman Adler.

The unit, which will campaign to secure a favorable vote on May 4 for the proposed \$55,037 library budget for 1966-67, heard Percy M. Proctor, president of the library board of trustees, explain why the trustees were recommending in the budget for the addition of a full-time children's librarian and an additional clerical aide and providing for an increase of \$1,200 in the allotment for the purchase of books.

The second speaker was the library director, William Menear, who reviewed the many ways in which the library has improved its book collection and its reference facilities as well as expanding its services this year. He pointed out that he has been concentrating on improving the children's program, but hoped that the addition next year of a full-time

children's librarian would free him to devote the major part of his time to young and adult programs, fields in which he felt a tremendous increase in library interest and use could be and should be developed.

Chapter Officers Are Named by Phone Pioneers

At a chapter executive committee meeting recently, Frank C. Reilly, District Plant Superintendent, Staten Island, was elected Vice President of the Long Island Empire Chapter, Telephone Pioneers of America. Mr. Reilly will succeed Clinton D. Dixon, Division Traffic Superintendent — Queens, who will become Chapter President on July 1.

At the same meeting Virginia M. Moger of Brightwaters, former Chief Operator in Suffolk, was elected Chapter Life Member Representative for the Year 1966-1967, succeeding John C. Sargent, former Plant Service Supervisor.

Both Mr. Reilly and Mrs. Moger will assume their offices on July 1.

Library Breaks Records ^{4/15/66}

Month by month, the Babylon Public Library keeps on breaking the circulation records of past months and years. In March, for the first time in its history, the figure of 7,000 was reached with a circulation of 3,071 books in the adult department and 4,005 in the juvenile department for a combined total circulation of 7,076. The top figure for any previous month was 6,375 a month ago in February.

Again the biggest growth in circulation was registered in the juvenile department with a March total of 4,005, a new monthly record. Two years ago in 1963-64, the last year the library was operated by the Babylon Library Association, the juvenile circulation for March was only 1,167. The adult circulation has shown a much more modest increase, from 2,498 for March 1964, as opposed to 3,071 for March of this year. That 3,071 figure also sets a new record, representing the first time that the adult circulation has topped 3,000.

In 1963-64, the circulation for the whole twelve months of the year was 36,557. Now, with a total of 44,949 to date, the figure is already over 8,000 higher with three months yet to go to reach an even more record-breaking total.

A striking contrast is presented in the juvenile department where the book circulation so far this year has reached a total of 21,088, nearly twice the circulation of 11,456 for the whole year of 1963-64.